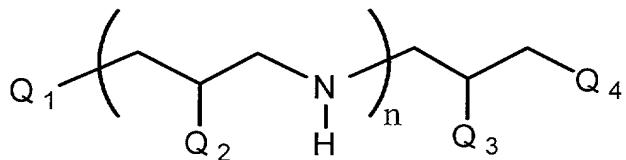


ABSTRACT

Lipids and compositions of lipids that can be used as lipid aggregates (i.e., liposomes) for the delivery of macromolecules and other compounds into cells are provided. The lipids have a general structure represented by the formula:

5



10 The lipids can be used to form lipid aggregates (i.e., liposomes). These lipid aggregates can serve as transfection reagents for the delivery of various compounds into cells. Suitable compounds that can be delivered into cells include nucleic acids (e.g. DNA, RNA), oligonucleotides, proteins, peptides, and small molecular drugs.